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Tried And True

Congressman Watkins M. Abbitt's decision to seek re-election in the Fourth District assures a strong conservative candidate. For the past 22 years, this man has demonstrated that he can be relied upon to defend a man's right be free of Government oppression and his right to his paycheck: he has consistently defended Constitutional rights against Government usurpation, and he has consistently opposed Federal welfare-state spending which has cheapened the buying power of the dollar.

Even so, he may have something of a struggle to win his party's nomination since the Fourth District was gerrymandered in an effort to give the liberally-oriented Chesapeake area control. He will be opposed in the Democratic primary, and presumably, in the November election if he survives the primary. His only real opposition will come from the big-vote city area which has a self-serving interest in raiding the pocketbook of other taxpayers to finance their own welfare schemes.

Should Mr. Abbitt win the Democratic nomination, his election is by no means assured, despite the fact that the Fourth District is traditionally Democratic. The reason for the uncertainty lies not in a revitalized Republican Party, but in the obsession of the Democratic liberals to rule or ruin.

It will be interesting to see whether the liberal Democrats rally behind him if he wins the primary. Their recent reiteration of the party loyalty oath demands such support. But they have demonstrated in recent elections that they will not support a conservative of their own party, even if it means the election of a Republican.

If the Republican is a liberal, they have gone a step beyond withholding support from the conservative Democrat: they have communicated their displeasure with their party's candidate to their supporters, for the purpose of driving them into the Republican camp.

Mr. Abbitt deserves the support of all conservatives and all who call themselves moderates, whatever that is. He has served long and honorably and well, in the best traditions of Virginia. Such men don't come along every day and they should not be retired in favor or unknown quantities or qualities.

Reprinted from LYCHNBURG NEWS, Lynchburg, Va. March 2, 1970

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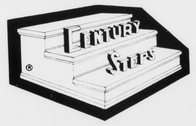

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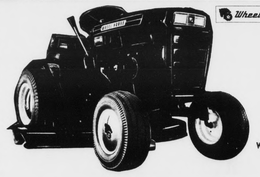

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The Pastor Speaks

IT'S A FACT!

In the days before he became a Christian, Charles Wesley was approached by a Christian pastor who asked him, "For what reason do you hope to be saved?" Charles Wesley replied, "Because I have used my best endeavors to serve God." The pastor shook his head sadly and said no more. Charles Wesley admitted later that he considered his interrogator to be rather unkind, and he thought within himself rebelliously, "What, are not my endeavors a sufficient ground of hope? Would he rob me of my endeavors? I have nothing else to trust to." Some years later when he had come to realize the fact of his sin and need, Charles Wesley penned these words, "Plenteous grace with thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin; Let the healing streams abound, Make and keep me pure within."

Charles Wesley was on the verge of making a mistake made by most of the world's peoples. Men feel mistakenly that they can earn the right to be children of God. Some say, "I'll do better next time." Others say, "I'll improve." Still others say, "Certainly God won't hold that against me." All the time the fact of sin stands in the words of God, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Suppose that the entire population of our country were lined up on our West Coast and were told to swim to Hawaii. At the sound of the signal the entire population takes a plunge and begins the long effort to reach the Islands. Some would perish in water just over their heads. Still others would swim several miles. Perhaps someone might even swim seventy-five to one-hundred miles, but no one would ever swim to Hawaii. In God's sight we all stand needy because we have broken his laws. No one will ever come into God's presence by his own efforts. Human sin renders that impossible. Some might come closer than others. No one would reach the final goal.

Our only recourse is to learn what Charles Wesley meant when he said, "Plenteous grace with thee is found," God loved us. He sent his son to die for us. Even though we were unworthy, the death of Jesus Christ made it possible for us to be received by God. Even though we cannot earn salvation, we can receive it by a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Realize your need, your helplessness, and Christ's all-sufficiency. Cast yourself on him for the full needs of salvation.

Dr. Thomas D. Lea, Pastor
Liberty Baptist Church
Appomattox, Virginia 24522

Eclipse

CHATHAM — At sunrise on March 7, the shadow of the moon will touch the earth at a point in the Pacific Ocean 600 miles southeast of Christmas Island.

Moving at some 1,500 miles per hour, the shadow will race northeastward across the North American continent, leaving the earth at sunset in the North Atlantic Ocean approximately 1,000 miles east of Ireland.

* * *

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

NO CHEAPER RATE!

Lesson for March 8, 1970

Background Scripture: Mark 8: 34-38; Luke 14:25-33; I Kings 22:1-36; Matthew 10:16-39; Acts 6 through 7

Devotional Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-12

Singer Sarah Vaughn's little niece was having prayer explained to her. Prayers, she was told, are like telegrams to God. The little girl thought that over and then asked: "Oh, is that why we sent them at night – to get the cheaper rate?"

Out of the mouths of babes and infants come some of the most profound thoughts to challenge the mind of man. Why the little girl said that, I do not know, but perhaps she had already learned that a great deal of adult attention seems directed toward getting the cheaper rate, regardless of the commodity. Everyone wants a bargain, something marked down from its original price, a discount, a deal – even in religion!

An Easter Without Lent

Just as a Christmas without an Advent is quite meaningless, so is an Easter without a Lent. The resurrection, great and glorious news that it is, cannot be either understood or experienced apart from the passion and cross of our Lord. An Easter without the Passion of Christ is a bargain basement religion that is really no bargain. It is a tragic attempt to get the cheaper rate.

Last spring immediately after Easter I saw a sign in a store window: "Post-Easter Sale . . . Crosses and Bunnies: One-Half Off!" The "crosses and bunnies," of course, were chocolate, but I couldn't help feeling there was a fair amount of unconscious irony in that poster. While Easter is a time of great excitement and joy, the post-Easter season seems to be a time of marked-down Christian discipleship. The pain and agony of the cross are quickly forgotten.

Jesus himself made it clear that there could be no cut-rate discipleship: "If a man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." And that's the way it was for his disciples. Peter, tradition tells us, was crucified head-down on a cross in Rome. Andrew was also crucified. Bartholomew was crucified and beheaded. Thomas was martyred in India. James the Less was stoned and clubbed to death. Jude and Simon met violent deaths, and even James, the brother of Jesus. There was nothing marked down about their discipleship.

Cheap Grace

Nor for us. The cost of discipleship for us is still a cross; if not of wood and nails, it is still a cross of some kind. There is no point in trying to seek a cheaper rate, for there is none. It does not necessarily mean that each of us must die for our faith – though it might – but that we must be willing to live or die for it, whichever is required, sometimes it is more difficult to live for something than to die for something.

Deitrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor who was put to death for his active resistance against Hitler and the Nazis. He has written a book which has become a modern classic. It is entitled, "The Cost of Discipleship." In it he calls "cheap grace" the "deadly enemy of the Church." By "cheap grace" he means the bargain-counter approach to Christianity that assumes that because Christ has paid the price for us, the love of God costs us nothing. It pictures the Church as a benevolent welfare organization that has too much grace on hand and must give it out indiscriminately, and God as a senile philanthropist whose gift of grace costs him nothing.

Without A Cross

"Cheap grace," says Bonhoeffer, "is grace without discipleship, grace without a cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." We can congratulate the woman who by careful shopping is able to feed her family well for less money, but the family that tries to get the cheaper rate in its religion is doomed to disappointment. There is no "cheap grace." All grace is expensive. It cost Christ a cross to win a crown. It demands no less of us.

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DEATHS

DONALD M. ROGERS

Hallie Lawrence Rogers 109 Powhatan St., died Sunday at Lynchburg General Marshall Lodge Hospital. After a brief illness. She was widow of Donald M. Rogers. She was in Staunton, she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Lawrence. She was a member of First Baptist Church. Survivors include six sons, Donald L. Rogers of Richmond, Fred M. Rogers of Kilmarnock, Frank W. Rogers, of Appomattox, William L. Rogers, Jack S. Rogers, both of Danville, Stephen L. Rogers, Lynchburg; one sister, Mrs. Helen Bell of Staunton; 15 children and eight great-children.

Graveside Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

DELIA CRAIG ELLIS

Delia Craig Watson Ellis died at her home on February 7 after a long illness.

She was the daughter of the Robert D. and Sally Craig Watson. She was born in Appomattox, Va., 1887. Her parents were highly respected citizens of this county. Her father, capably served as school custodian for many years and was affectionately known throughout the county as "Uncle Bob."

The subject confessed Christ as her early youth and joined the First Baptist Church and served as the church's first organist. She was later keeper of the communion. As a tribute to her loyalty to Galilee, the Memorial Committee recommended her to be named "Mother of the Church" in 19-. She was also active in the Women's Ladies Aid Club.

She attended the public schools in the county and later graduated at the Virginia Seminary and College in Lynchburg, where she became interested in music.

Mrs. Ellis was married twice. Her first husband, begiag the Rev. Adolphus Watson. From this marriage five children were born, two of whom survive her, namely, Robert A. Watson, John Arthur and Miss Pearl Watson, all of Appomattox, and Mrs. Mildred Hallman, of Philadelphia. Her son, Craig Watson and her first husband preceded her in death.

Later married Robert Ellis who was employed at the Norfolk & Western Railway Station here for a number of years. He also preceded her to the grave.

Following an impressive funeral service, attended by a host of friends and conducted by her pastor, the Rev. R. Q. Lawing, she was laid to rest in the Galilee Cemetery.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

CENSUS '70
DAY APRIL 1

On Honors List

Miss Linda C. Grinels has been placed on the Honors List of Mary Baldwin College for a third time and was among those honored in a special convocation in February at the college.

Linda, an Appomattox High School graduate, averaged 2.5 or better on a possible 3.0 scale during the past semester. To be eligible a student must have completed a minimum of 14 credits with no grade lower than C.

The convocation is held at the beginning of the second semester each year. Speaker this year was John Delane Wilson, president of Wells College. Announcements of honors was made by Martha S. Grafton, dean of Mary Baldwin, with college president William Watkins Kelly presiding for the convocation.

Linda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Grinels of Appomattox.

ROCKS

March 2 – Farmers are busy top dressing their wheat and getting up plant patches.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Moore returned from Montgomery, W. Va. on Wednesday afternoon.

A number from Rocks attended the Sunday School Clinic at Liberty Church on Tuesday night.

The study of the book, the "Northeast" was given on Wednesday night by Barbara Ratliff, Florence Ranson, Elsie Ranson, Mrs. W. H. Elder and Helen Ingo.

A number from here attended the Tobacco Jubilee in Farmville on Wednesday.

Mrs. W. R. Moore and Cassie Baldwin attended the annual W. M. U. meeting at Bethel Church near Phenix on Thursday.

The Young Adult T. U. class had a supper in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McIntosh on Saturday night.

Mrs. Dora Jean Williams of Waynesboro spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Glenn McIntosh and parents, Mr and Mrs Robert Roach.

A number attended the Paulette and Elliott wedding at Evergreen Church on Thursday night.

Mrs. Emory Ranson of Madison Heights and son and daughter and son-in-law were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ranson recently one Sunday afternoon.

The W.M.U. Week of Prayer for Home Missions will be observed this week.

A number are planning to attend the Vacation Bible School Clinic on Wednesday.

Rev. W. H. Elder brought a fine message Sunday night. The Quartet furnished special music. It is always good to hear them.

BECKHAM

Mr. and Mrs. Abner Martin, Phil and Patricia of Richmond spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee and Miss Eunice Martin.

Mrs. Hermon Moore, Jr., Dorothy and Dianne of Richmond visited Mrs. Hermon Moore, Sr. Saturday evening.

Mrs. Henry Burge and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lee Burge visited Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge on Thursday.

Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burge and family of Forest Thursday night.

Those visiting Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge during the week end were Mr. and Mrs Robert Burge, and family, Mr. Mack McKenny, Mrs. Sadie Marino, Mr. Henry Burge, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Burge, and family.

Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge visited Mrs. E. C. Jennings Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Jennings accompanied Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge for a visit with Mrs. J. D. Ryans of Concord.

Mrs. Mary Burge, Paul Burge Mr. and Mrs. Frank Campbell of Tyro, Mrs. Tom Moore and Mrs. Hubert Wood, visited Mrs R. E. Mays Sunday afternoon.

A birthday party honoring Mrs. S. G. Martin was given at her home Sunday night. Mrs. Martins brothers and sisters and families were present for the occasion.

Tobacco On Display

William Hunter, cashier at Farmers National Bank, Appomattox, is also a tobacco grower and reports that a lot of interest has been shown in the sixteen hands of tobaccos on display in the lobby. These tobaccos were grown at the Southside Experiment Station, Charlotte Court House, using the same fertilizer, cultural treatment, insecticides and harvested and cured at the same time in the same barn. Two tobaccos drawing favorable comment are the F1 Hybrid – from crossing Lizard Tail Orinoco on Barley 49 and Kentucky 170. With tobacco sales over for the season, Mr. Hunter will be concentrating on the current Red Cross Drive. He serves as Appomattox County Red Cross chairman. Mrs. Don Moses is home secretary and assists people seeking Red Cross help.

OAKVILLE

The HD Club will meet Thursday with Mrs. Jesslyn Burcher.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Kemper Harris. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Marshall, Kathy and Doug, were dinner guests Saturday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lewis, of Madison Heights.

The W.S.C.S. of Mt. Comfort Church will meet with Mrs. O. W. Martin, Jr. Thursday evening.

Mrs. Maggie Gardner had all of her children and grandchildren for dinner Sunday.

Mrs. Dora Coleman and Miss Bernice Harvey were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Martin, Jr., Sunday.

ACHS 4-H Club

The Appomattox County High School Senior 4-H Club held its first meeting Feb. 26, 1970 in the school auditorium. Miss Mayton, the HD Agent, opened the meeting and then told us about the different projects open to 4-H students.

Mr. G. L. James, Farm Extension Agent, aided Miss Mayton in the election of officers for the following semester. They are as follows: President, Loretta Walker; Vice-President, Julia Hesson; Secretary, Emma Jackson; Assistant Secretary, Melanie Folks, Reporter, Martha Harvey, Song Leaders, Carol Wood and Christine Abbitt.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Martha Harvey, Reporter

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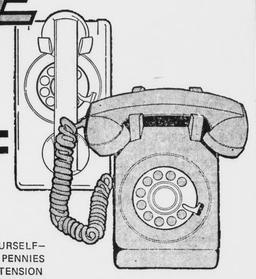

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